

# The Spread of Islam

Islam emerged in Arabia in the 600s A.D. and grew into a major world religion.

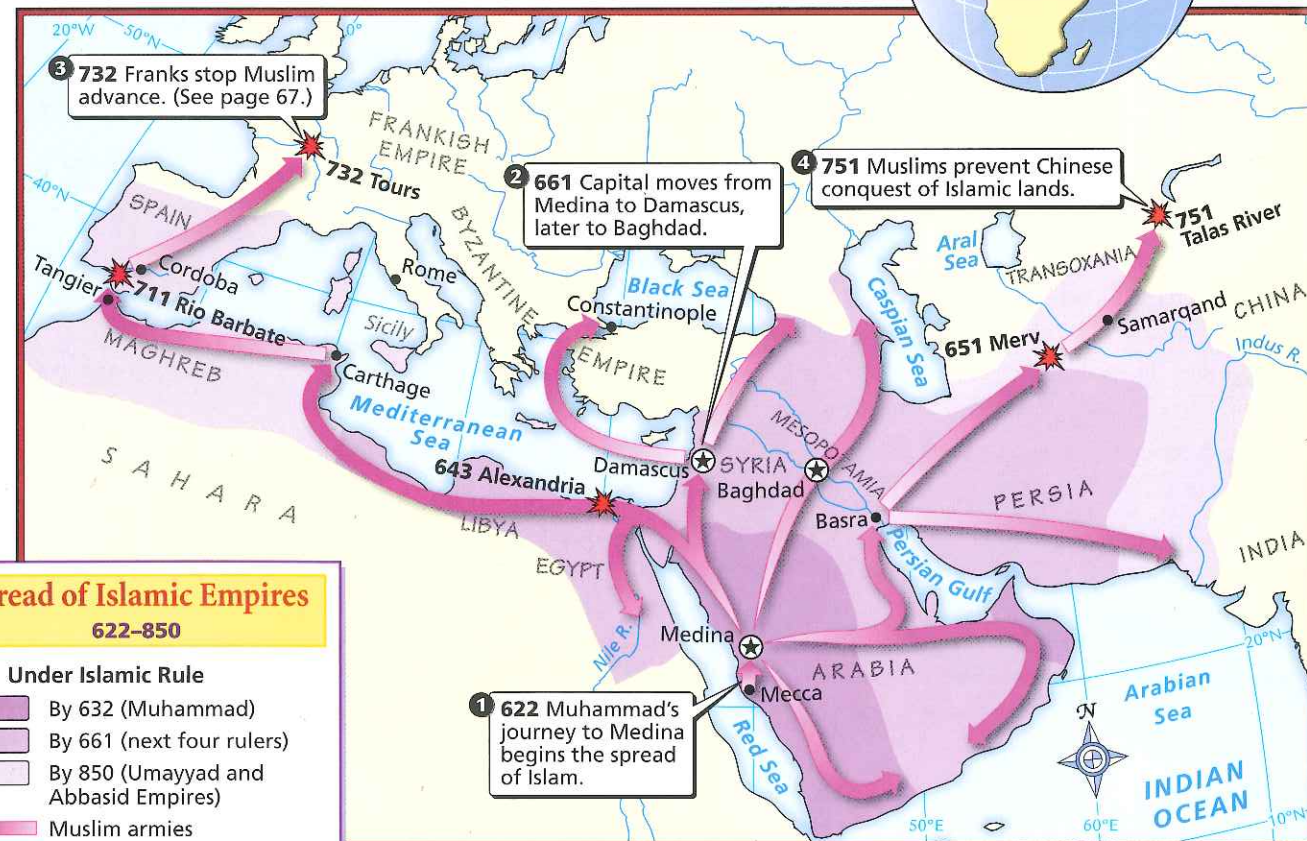
- Muhammad was the founder of Islam. He was both a political and a religious leader.
- The early leaders of Islam built large empires. Many of the people they conquered became followers of Islam, or **Muslims**.
- Later, through trade, Islam spread into regions that were not ruled by Muslims.



**A** The Quran, (also spelled Koran) is the holy book of Islam. It includes basic religious duties of all Muslims.

## What's Islam?

Islam is a religion based on the teachings of Muhammad, whom Muslims believe was the messenger of God (called Allah in Arabic). Today Islam is one of the world's most widespread religions.

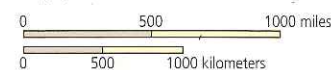


## Spread of Islamic Empires 622-850

### Under Islamic Rule

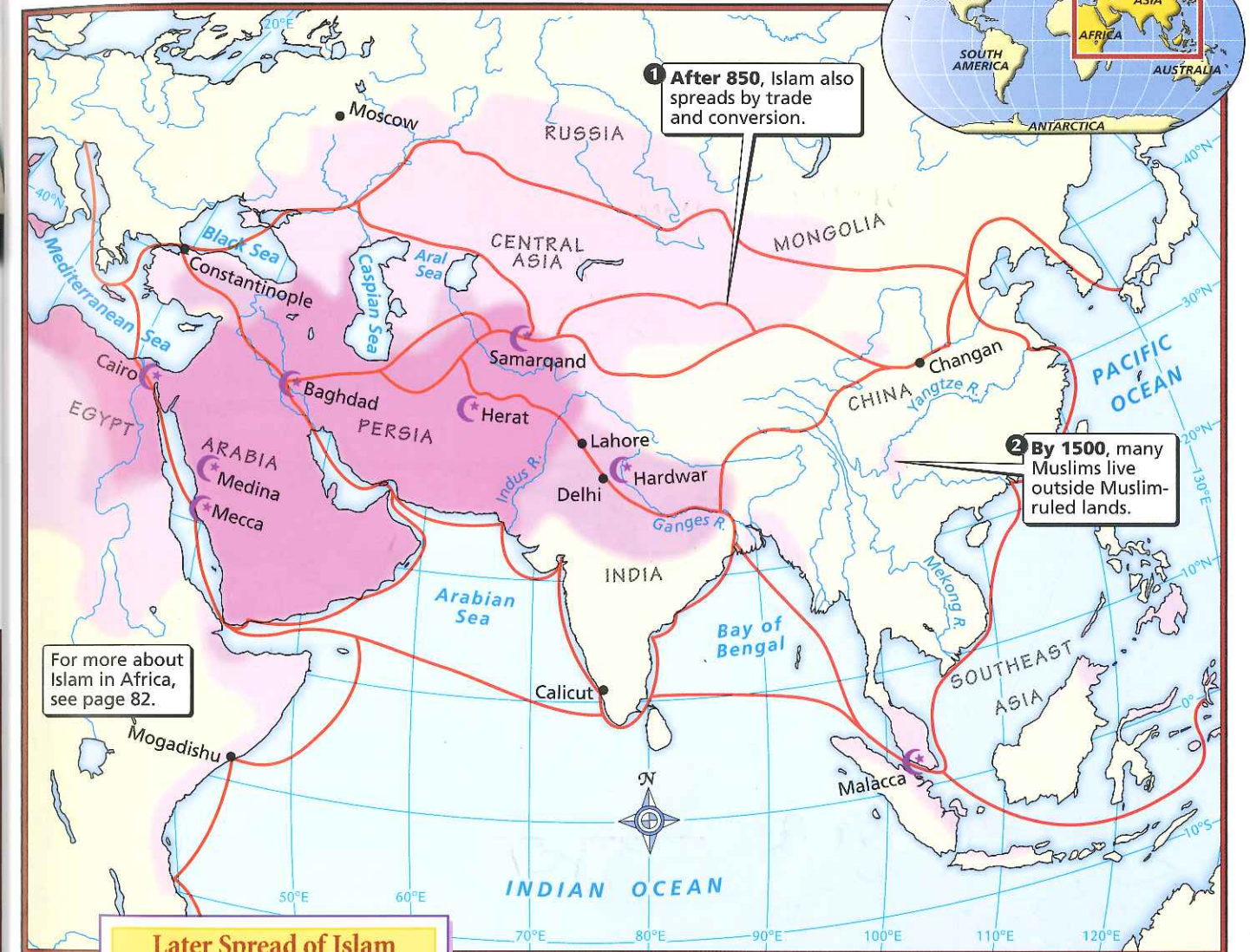
- By 632 (Muhammad)
- By 661 (next four rulers)
- By 850 (Umayyad and Abbasid Empires)

- ➔ Muslim armies
- ★ Islamic capital
- ✱ Battle



**B** Islam first expanded through military conquest. The rulers of the Islamic Empires were also religious leaders.

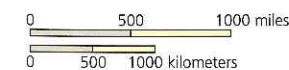
**C** After 850 the Islamic Empire had begun to lose power, but Islam continued to spread. Muslim traders introduced Islamic culture into China, Southeast Asia, and Africa.



## Later Spread of Islam 850-1500

### Predominantly Muslim

- By 850
- By 1200
- By 1500
- ➔ Major trade route, 1200-1500
- ✱ Major Muslim site



**D** Mecca, the birthplace of Muhammad, is one of the holy cities of Islam. Traveling to Mecca to pray is a religious duty for Muslims.

